REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application. Claim 2 was cancelled in a previous amendment and remains cancelled.

In the Office Action of March 25, 2009, claims 1, 3-5 were rejected.

With this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa et al.* (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0001026) ("*Ishikawa*") in view of *Ono et al.* (JP 2000-289320) ("*Ono*") and *George et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,487,122) ("*George*), *Yakazaki et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,420,200) ("*Yakazaki*"), *Schell* (U.S. Pat. No 6,098,546) ("*Schell*"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In relevant part, independent claim 1 now recites that the tapered portions of the gravure roll are each located over the non-pixel forming areas of the silicone blanket and are configured to maintain the thickness of a coating film in the pixel area of the silicone blanket by allowing the excess coating liquid in the pixel area to transfer into the non-pixel areas.

Ishikawa discloses a blanket cylinder without tapered ends. See, U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0001026, Para [0037]. In addition, as the Examiner correctly states in the Final Office Action of March 25, 2009, *Ono* fails to disclose anything pertaining to a gravure roll with tapered edges. See, Final Office Action of March 25, 2009 at Page 3.

Similarly, *George* fails to disclose or even suggest anything pertaining to tapered ends of a gravure roll maintaining the thickness of a coating film. Instead, *George*, relates to a press system which uses a flexible depression compensating impression roll **with rounded ends** used to apply a constant pressure to a press. See, U.S. Pat. No. 4,487,122, Col 3, l. 61-68. Further, because the rounded ends of the impression roll disclosed in *George* are placed inside a roller

bearing, **they would not allow excess material from a pixel area to be pushed into a non-pixel area**. See, U.S. Pat No. 4,487,122, Fig. 1.

Similarly, *Yakazaki* and *Schell* do not disclose or even suggest anything pertaining to the tapered portions of the gravure roll being located over the non-pixel forming areas and being configured to maintain the thickness of a coating film by allowing the excess coating liquid in the pixel area to transfer into the non-pixel areas. Instead, *Yamazaki* and *Schell* both disclose a straight cylinder without tapered ends. See, U.S. Pat. No. 6,420,200, Fig 1B; U.S. Pat. No. 6,098,546 Fig 1.

As the Applicant's specification discloses, by providing the tapered portions of the gravure roll over the non-pixel forming areas and configuring them to maintain the thickness of a coating film in the pixel area of a silicone blanket by allowing the excess coating liquid in a pixel area to transfer into non-pixel areas, the non uniformity of the layer width of the contacted liquid portion is absorbed by the non-pixel forming area resulting in a small and uniform coating film on the silicone blanket. See, U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0202778, Para [0051].

Therefore, because *Ishikawa, Ono, George, Yakazaki, Schell* and any combination of them fails to disclose, or even fairly suggest, every feature of claim 1, the rejection cannot stand.

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* in view of *Ono* and in further view of *Yakazaki*. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In relevant part, independent claim 3 recites top faces of two flat plates each consisting of an angled flat surface with a downward gradient from the central portion side toward the end portion sides of the rotational axis of a silicone blanket, where each angled flat surface is located

over a non-pixel forming area of the silicone blanket and is configured to maintain the thickness of the coating film in the pixel forming area by transferring the excess coating film in the pixel area to the non-pixel area.

In the Office Action of March 25, 2009, the Examiner correctly states that *Ishikawa* does not disclose supplying ink with a slit formed by two flat plates. See, Office Action of March 25, 2009 at Page 5. Further, *Ishikawa* does not disclose anything pertaining to two flat plates each including an angled flat surface with a downward gradient from the central portion side toward the end portion sides of the rotational axis of a silicone blanket.

Similarly, in the Office Action of March 25, 2009 the Examiner states that *Ono* does not explicitly teach slant surfaces with a downward gradient from the central portion side toward the end portion sides of the rotational axis of the silicone blanket. See, Office Action of March 25, 2009 at Page 5. Further, *Ono* does not disclose anything pertaining to an angled flat surface with a downward gradient from the central portion side toward the end portion sides of the rotational axis of a silicone blanket. Instead, *Ono* discloses rounded edges formed on the plates of a die cutter to minimize injury when handling the plates. See, JP 2000-289320, Para. [0013].

Yakazaki also fails to disclose anything pertaining flat plates, much less flat plates where each flat plate consists of an angled flat surface with a downward gradient from the central portion side toward the end portion sides of the rotational axis of a silicone blanket.

As the Applicant's specification discloses, by providing two flat plates which each consist of an angled flat surface with a downward gradient from the central portion side toward the end portion sides of the rotational axis of a silicone blanket where the angled flat surfaces are located over the non-pixel forming areas of the silicone blanket and are configured to maintain the thickness of the coating film in the pixel forming area by transferring the excess coating film

in the pixel area to the non-pixel area, the non uniformity of the layer width of the contacted liquid portion is absorbed by the non-pixel forming area resulting in a small and uniform coating film on the silicone blanket. See, U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0202778, Para [0075].

Therefore, because *Ishikawa, Ono, Yakazaki* and any combination of the them fail to disclose, or even fairly suggest, every feature of claim 3, the rejection of claim 3 cannot stand. Because claim 4 depends, either directly or indirectly, from claim 3, it is allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* in view of *Ono* and in further view of *Suga* (U.S. Patent No. 5,853,801) ("*Suga*"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As stated above, claim 3 is patentable over *Ishikawa* and *Ono*.

Suga, similarly, fails to disclose forming at least one organic layer by supplying a coating liquid onto a silicone blanket from the bottom side thereof via a slit provided in parallel to the rotational axis of a silicone blanket where the top faces of the two flat plates are an angled flat surface with a downward gradient from the central portion side toward the end portion sides of the rotational axis of a silicone blanket and the angled flat surfaces correspond to non-pixel forming areas of the silicone blanket. Instead, *Suga* discloses a wire bar supported at both ends by bearings and coating of the wire bar using coating wells. See, U.S. Patent No. 5,853,801, Col. 12, l. 63-Col. 13, l. 1-20.

Therefore, because *Ishikawa, Ono, Suga* and any combination of the them fails to disclose, or even fairly suggest, every feature of claim 3, the rejection cannot stand. Because claim 5 depends, either directly or indirectly, from claim 3, it is allowable for at least the same reasons.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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